

October 15, 2022

Waste Management Services

Re: Waste Management and Bears

To whom it may concern:

On behalf of many residents of Sandy Hook, we would like to bring to your attention the issue of wildlife conflict happening in our neighbourhood and suggest some options for resolution.

When the new waste management process was launched with new bins and pick-up schedule, the pick-up day and time was also changed in our communities. For example, in Sandy Hook, it went from early Tuesday mornings to mid-afternoon on Thursdays. Residents are instructed to place unsecured waste containers at the roadside by 8:00 a.m., but the actual pick-up by Waste Management trucks is between 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. The temptation for bears to visit these non-bear proof containers sitting for hours at the side of our roads is irresistible. Waste bins are overturned and garbage in plastic bags taken by bears is spread around, leaving a mess on the roadside and inviting other wildlife to also check it out for a meal.

The requests for resolution:

1. Waste Management to alter the pick-up schedule so that the more rural areas such as Sandy Hook, Tillicum and Tuwanek have pick-up at the beginning of the route for the day.
2. District staff provide, for resident purchase, more bear-proof containers than can still be compatible with the Waste Management vehicles.
3. Reinstated a centralized bear proof waste drop off bin for residents to drop off garbage during active bear months.

The current waste pick-up is endangering human safety with potential conflict with bears. It is also promoting habituation for bears to take advantage of the available food source while posing significant risk to their health. We are seeking a resolution that allows a cleaner and safer neighbourhood for humans and better protection of our wildlife residents.

Regards,

Kelly Kitchen

President,
Sandy Hook Community Association
Sechelt, BC

Sent via email to:

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